

XXXIV.—*Description of some apparently new Insects from the Congo, sent to England by Mr. Curror, Surgeon R.N., and the late Mr. John Cranch.* By Mr. ADAM WHITE, M.E.SS. Lond. and Paris, Assistant Zool. Dep. British Museum.

I INTEND giving here a list of such insects as I have seen on the banks of the Congo lately collected by Mr. Curror, surgeon of the "Water Witch," and among these, added to the specimens collected in Tuckey's expedition, now in the British Museum, I trust that a sufficient number of forms will be found to make the list interesting to the student of the geographical distribution of insects.

The unfortunate termination of the expedition to explore "the river Zaire, usually called the Congo," in 1816, under the direction of Capt. Tuckey, is well known; in the list of supernumerary passengers, exclusive of the crew of forty-nine, who went out, occur as the first names those of "Mr. Professor Smith, botanist, and Mr. Cranch, collector of objects of natural history." To the zoologist the name of the latter is a well-known sound; Montagu and Leach have published the results of some of the labours of the Devonshire naturalist. To some of the marine productions of our southern shore, first discovered by him, his name has been applied; in the preface to a paper on Annulosa, I need only mention the two Crustacea, *Ebalia Cranchii* and the rare *Achæus Cranchii*, taken by him in Falmouth bay. Should his eulogy be wanted, consult the works of Leach and Col. Montagu. Mr. Cranch died in his 31st year, a victim to the climate of unhealthy W. Africa: he was buried at Embomma along with Mr. Tudor, his comrade. A friend thus writes of him (Intro. to Tuckey's Narrative): "If I may judge from external appearances, he was an affectionate husband and father, a sincere friend, a pious, honest and good man."

His collections are in the British Museum. Thirty-six only of his insects, according to Dr. Leach, "reached England in a tolerable state, the rest were entirely destroyed by insects and damp." Five or six of these were regarded by Leach as species new to entomologists; two have been described: one, the *Platygenia Zairica*, by MacLeay; another by Serville from Dejean's collection, the locality of which was unknown; it is the beautiful longicorn beetle, *Euporus strangulatus*.

*Papilio Ridleyanus*, n. sp. Pap. ecaudatus fuscus, alis anticis subelongatis, supra maculis 5 flavo-miniaceis, posticis supra miniaceis, fusco marginatis nigroque maculatis, posticis subtus caryophyllaceo flavoque tinctis. Exp. al. ♂ unc. 3 fere, ♀ unc. 3½.

*Hab.* ad oras fluminis Zaire. Dom. Curror lexit. Brit. Mus.

*Wings* above of a brownish black with red spots and marks, the upper wings here and there semitransparent.

The first pair have two bands of a darker brown in the discoidal cell ; in one specimen, a female, these bands are margined with pale ochrey ; there are five red irregular spots between the discoidal cell and the posterior margin, the one nearest the tip smallest ; in one specimen, a male, almost obsolete ; in the female this terminal spot is larger : the last of the spots linear and close to the posterior margin ; the penultimate notched towards the discoidal cell, and abruptly straight behind ; in the female the margins of these spots are yellowish.

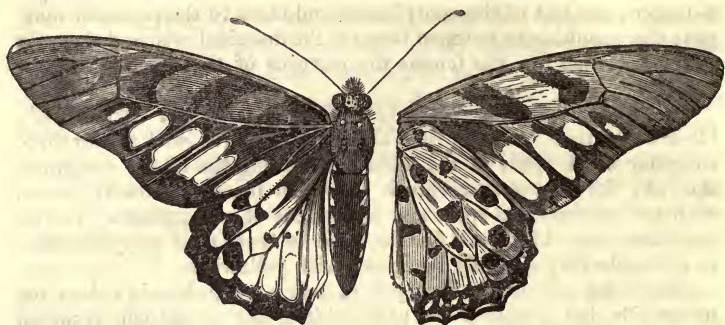
The second pair of wings have their general upper surface red ; black at the base, emitting lines along the nervures, with two or three irregular black spots in the middle and along the hinder margin of the red ; the posterior margin is brownish black, narrowest inside, with two or three red spots and indications of red streaks. In two specimens, one of them a female, some of these cells are yellowish ; in one male they are only margined with yellowish.

The under side of the first pair of wings resembles in colour the upper side, but is paler ; the under side of the second pair is mixed with red, greenish and pinkish tints, varying according to the position they are examined in—the last-mentioned colour prevails ; on the surface there are at least twelve deep black spots of different sizes ; the posterior margin is of a faint brown with six or seven pale, transversely elongated spots on its edge, and some indistinct red spots before them. The *head* is black, spotted with white above ; cheeks and face yellowish with a black line down the middle : the *thorax* is brownish black spotted with whitish, especially on the sides beneath the wings : *abdomen* brown, sides spotted with yellowish, beneath yellowish barred with brown, the bars in the middle of the belly dilated into spots ; femora dark ; tibiæ and tarsi palish. Extent of wings of the smallest male specimen (which is more elongated and has the first pair of wings slightly sinuated behind) nearly three inches ; of the largest, a female, rather more than three inches and a half.

This very distinct species of African butterfly is of the same form as the *Papiliones Latreillianus*, *Tynderaus* and *Leonidas*, three well-known W. African insects in Boisduval's 15th group (Lep. i. p. 239). To the scarce *Papilio Antimachus* figured by Drury, it has, at first sight, a curious relationship, as was pointed out to me by Mr. E. Doubleday. To him I am indebted for the opportunity of paying a debt I have long owed\* to the memory of Mr. Ridley, a gentleman in the W. African Coast Service, whose love for our favourite science was displayed by a collection he made near the fort of Accra and sent to this country. He gave great promise of excelling in entomology, and fell a victim to the climate of W. Africa. In a small collection shown me by his friend Mr. Humphreys, I had assigned his name to a black and white *Papilio* since described by Mr. Westwood. I hope that as this species does not occur, as far as I am aware, in

\* See Entomologist for July 1841, p. 136.

any book I have consulted, the compliment may prove a *permanent* one. The striking resemblance in colour and form to some species of the *Acraea* genus, such as *Zethea*, must be evident to every lepidopterist.



I may add, that the accompanying figure of the male was most kindly drawn for me by Mr. Humphreys.

One of the few insects saved from Tuckey's expedition is a large species of *Bombyx*: it is fulvous yellow, sprinkled over with minute brownish spots; the wings are very hairy, and have a few waved transverse streaks of a brownish colour on the upper side; the lower wings have, at the base above, a dark brown patch of fur-like hairs; its antennæ somewhat resemble in form those of the female of *Chelepteryx Collesi* of G. R. Gray (the *Saturnia Laplacei*, Feisthamel, 'Voy. Favorite'), and I have little doubt it is a female; with our present information on the subject of exotic genera of moths, I dare not venture to suggest a new generic name for this insect, especially as there is but a single specimen in the Museum, and therefore refer it to the magazine genus *Bombyx*, with the following specific character:—

*Bombyx Mariana*. B. villosa fulva, fuscis pilis stictica, alis anticis supra strigis transversis 3—4 fuscis obscuris, posticis supra basi villosissimis, macula magna rufescenti fusca, strigisque 3 transversis distinctis, 2 posterioribus (post mediam alæ partem) approximatis; corpore subaurantiaco, alis infra pallidioribus fascia tenui communi transversa fusca. Exp. al. unc.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  fere.

*Hab.* ad oras fluminis Zaire. Legit Dom. Cranch. Brit. Mus.

*Cicindela neglecta*, Dej., Spec. gen. des Col. i. p. 114. no. 96.

One specimen of a slight variety of this Senegal species was brought from the banks of the Congo by Mr. Curror, Surgeon R.N.

*Graphipterus cicindeloides*, Dej., Spec. gen. des Col. v. p. 458. sp. 7. in "Carabus cicindeloides, Oliv."

One specimen of a variety from the banks of the Congo.

*Anthia gracilis*, Dej., Spec. gen. des Col. v. 468. 17; Dupont in Guérin's Mag. de Zool. 1832.

Two specimens of a local variety of this occur, from the banks of the Congo.

*Eunectes griseus*, Aubé, Spec. gen. des Col. vi. p. 124.

*Dytiscus griseus*, Fabr. var.

*Dytiscus sticticus*, Fabr.

A specimen of this cosmopolite species was brought from the banks of the Congo by Mr. Curror.

Amongst the Lamellicorn beetles Mr. Curror has sent specimens of

*Eudicella Grallii* (Buquet), White, Mag. Nat. Hist. iii. p. 28, 1839.

*Goliathus Grallii*, Buquet, Annales de la Soc. Ent. de France, v. p. 201.

*Dicranorrhina Grallii*, Burm., Handb. iii. p. 191. pl. 5. f. 3.

*Hab.* ad oras fluminis Zaire vulgo Congo dicti. Dom. Curror lexit. Brit. Mus.

Both males and females of this species occur, varying in the colouring of the elytra and in the size of the fork in the male. As the female resembles the male excepting in the head and the structure of the legs (especially the fore ones), &c., as in other species of the genus, I need hardly describe it; but as it is yet unfigured, I will take care that a figure of the female and of a very handsome male be published in some entomological periodical. M. Lucien Buquet in 1835 was uncertain of the precise locality of this very handsome insect: his figure of the male represents it by far too slender. Mr. Charles Curtis's figure in the 'Mag. of Nat. History,' representing a species of this genus, is more characteristic, as are Mr. Westwood's figures of the Goliath beetles of this subgenus in the 'Arcana Entomologica.'

*Cælorrhina guttata*, Burm., Handb. iii. p. 208.

*Cetonia guttata*, Oliv., Ins. i. p. 15. no. 10. pl. 2. f. 7 a. ♀.

*Gnathocera guttata*, Gory et Perch., Mon. des Cet. p. 144. pl. 22. f. 6 ♀; Buquet, l. c. p. 205. pl. 5. f. 6 ♂.

Mr. Curror has brought both sexes of this from the Congo. We are indebted to the Rev. D. F. Morgan for specimens from Sierra Leone, which, with his entire collection of insects, he most liberally presented to the national collection.

*Plasiorrhina cincta*, Burm., Handb. iii. p. 213.

*Scarabæus cinctus*, Voet., Col. i. p. 11. t. 2. f. 9.

*Cetonia tænia*, Pal. de Beauv., Ins. Rec. p. 28. pl. 5. f. 3.

*Gnathocera tænia*, Gory et Perch., Cet. p. 138. pl. 21. f. 4.

One specimen, brought by Mr. Curror from the banks of the Congo.  
*Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Vol. xii.*

*Coryphocera Africana*, Burm., Handb. iii. p. 230.

*Scarabæus Africanus*, *Drury*, Ins. ii. p. 54. pl. 30. f. 4.

*Gnathocera Africana*, *Gory et Perch.*, Cet. p. 132. pl. 19. f. 6.

A very abundant species on the banks of the Congo.

*Coryphocera monoceros*, Burm., Handb. iii. p. 232.

*Gnathocera monoceros*, *Latr.*, *Gory et Perch.*, Cet. pl. 21. f. 3. p. 137.

One specimen from the banks of the Congo, brought by Mr. Curror.

*Gnathocera trivittata*, Burm., Handb. iii. p. 546.

*Scarabæus* (*Cetonia*) *trivittatus*, *Swed.*, *Acta Holm.* 1787, p. 190. sp. 7.

*Amphistoros trivittata*, *Gory et Perch.*, Cet. p. 145. pl. 23. f. 1.

Not uncommon on the banks of the Congo.

*Platygenia Zairica*, *MacLeay*, *Hor. Ent.* pt. 1. p. 151.

*Platygenia barbata*, *Burm.*, Handb. iii. p. 730.

*Trichius barbatus*, *Afzelius*, in *Schönh.* Syn. Ins. i. 3rd pt. p. 38.

Not uncommon on the banks of the Zaire.

This may be the *Trichius barbatus* of *Afzelius*. As the specimens agree closely with the male collected by Mr. Cranch and described by *MacLeay* from the example in the British Museum, I give his name: this is the insect alluded to by *Dr. Leach* in the Appendix to *Tuckey's Narrative* (p. 418) as "a new genus of the family *Scarabæidea*." I am inclined to think there may be three species of *Platygenia*.

Amongst the *Buprestidæ* occur two apparently undescribed species of the genus *Sternocera*, *Eschscholtz.* Of a species nearly allied to one of these, two specimens already exist in our collection, brought by *Dr. Burchell* from S. Africa, to which the MS. name of *Buprestis liturata* has been applied by that enterprising and learned traveller. The following specific character may distinguish it from the *Sternocera interrupta*; it is, like all its congeners, variable in size; the least specimen is 1 inch  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lines, the largest 1 inch 7 lines.

The thorax is more coarsely punctured than in *S. interrupta*, and not so much so as in *S. castanea*; the abdomen beneath has also only a few slight hairs on its general surface, and the four last segments have on each side, between the side and middle, a patch of close-set hairs; that on the anal segment elongated. In *Dr. Burchell's S. liturata* the elytra are differently sculptured, showing symptoms of ridges; the spots are smaller, especially the hind ones. My species may turn out a local variety of this; meanwhile I describe it as

*Sternocera liturata* (var. *Currori*). St. ænescenti-nigra, thoracis lateribus singulis plaga magna depressa tomentosa (sub pilis super-

ficies æneo-viridis est), antice recta, postice rotundata, marginem posticam non attingente lateribus parallelis; elytris singulis plagis 5, depressis pilis adpressis flavescenti-cinereis indutis; 3 parvis basalibus, una elongata laterali, pilis longioribus duabus subovalibus juxta suturam, una submediana ad latus alteraque maxima, postice attenuata.

*Hab.* ad ripas fluminis Zaire. Dom. Curror collegit. Long. unc. 1. lin. 7.

By Laporte and Gory this would be regarded as a distinct species, although eventually I believe it will be found to be a local variety of *Sternocera liturata*. I have much pleasure in dedicating this handsome *Buprestis* to Mr. Curror, Surgeon of the Royal Navy, while to Mr. Burchell's I have assigned the name of *Sternocera liturata* (var. *Burchellii*).

Another *Sternocera*, of a bright purplish opalescent colour, and nearly allied to *S. castanea*, may be characterized as follows:—

*Sternocera feldspathica*. St. castanea, purpureo et viridi resplendens, thorace lateribus plaga antica subtriangulari, dorso rude punctato, elytris haud plagiatis lineatis, basi subareolatis, corpore subtus purpureo-nigro, subpiloso, segmentis 3 posticis lateribus, plaga pilorum.

*Hab.* ad oras Zaire vulgo Congo. Dom. Curror lexit. Long. unc. 1. lin. 7.

Mr. Curror has also brought from the Congo a specimen of *Chrysochroa lepida*, Lap. et Gory, Hist. Nat. et Iconogr. des Ins. Coleopt. pl. 3. f. 9.

*Buprestis lepida*, Gory, Ann. Soc. Ent. de France, i. p. 383. pl. 12.

*Buprestis dives*, Dej., Cat. p. 85 (ed. 1837).

And of the

*Buprestis viridi-azurea*. B. æneo-rufescenti-viridis, lateribus elytrorum sulculo depresso, thorace æneo, plagis variis subelevatis viridibus, corpore subtus æneo. Long. lin. 11.

I know not who applied the MS. name to this; it is closely allied to *Buprestis limbalis*, Illiger. Lap. et Gory, *op. cit.* p. 78. pl. 20. fig. 104. Our specimen came from Mr. Children's collection: the label is in Bilberg's handwriting.

Mr. Curror has brought amongst the Heteromera a specimen of what I consider to be a local variety of the

*Epiphysa flavicollis*, Dej., Cat. p. 197 (*Leachii* olim); Solier, Ann. Soc. Ent. de France.

*Pimelia flavicollis*, Fabr., Ent. Syst.; Syst. Eleuth. i. 128.

*Pimelia inflata*, Oliv.

*Hab.* ad oras fluminis Zaire.

An *Adesmia* with verrucose elytra, in form somewhat resembling *Pimelia cothurnata* of Klug (Ehrenberg's *Symbolæ Phys.*) is in Mr.

Curror's collection, but not having the volume of the French Ent. Soc. Annals which contains Solier's descriptions, by me, I fear to describe this and another *Pimelia* from the Congo, also seemingly new. I may here mention, as it is not altogether out of place, that the *Moluris Pierreti* of Serville, described by M. Amyot in Guerin's 'Magazin de Zoologie,' 1835, pl. 129, seems to me synonymous with the *Moluris vialis* of Burchell, two specimens of which, presented by Dr. Burchell, are in the collection of the British Museum. I subjoin Burchell's description and note, as the 'Travels in the Interior of Southern Africa' are not sufficiently known to entomologists. The synonym is inserted on my authority.

Sept. 12, 1811. Note.—“A black beetle was very often met with in our road, and seemed fond of crawling along the ground which had been made smooth by the wheels; for which reason, and its proving to be an undescribed species, I have called it

*Moluris vialis*, Burchell, Travels in the Int. of S. Africa, i. p. 305.

*Moluris Pierreti*, Serville, Amyot in Guerin's Mag. de Zoologie, 1835, pl. 129.

“Nigra. Elytra postice, et ad latera, tuberculata, apicibus productis glabris. Macula abdominalis velutina rufa. Thorax lævis.

“In its season it is a very common insect (about lat. 30° 20' 47”), and, in a geographical view, one of a very wide range, but I believe quite extra-colonial\*.”

XXXV.—Note on a Paper in 'Annals and Mag. of Nat. History,' vol. vii. p. 315. By Mr. ADAM WHITE, M.E.SS. Lond. and Paris, Assistant Zool. Dep. British Museum.

AT p. 317 of my memoir on the nest of a South American wasp, I have said that it was found on “the banks of the Rio Yancay (Uruguay?).” Walter Hawkins, Esq., of Fowkes Buildings, Lon-

\* There are but few insects described in the notes to Burchell's Travels; one however I may mention, as it is alluded to as follows, and the passage contains a note on its habits: “Of insects I found two new species of *Anthia*, to one of which I gave the name of *effugiens*, on account of its very fast running, and of the great difficulty in catching it. This property is common, but in a degree something less, to all the species of this genus which I saw. This one is a transgaripeine insect.”—Burchell, *op. cit.* i. p. 417.

The entomologist knows this insect as the *Anthia homoplata*, described and figured by Dupont in his monograph of the genus in Guerin's 'Magazin de Zoologie,' 1832, pl. 39.

Mr. Burchell well merits the compliment of having an *Anthia* named after him, as has been done by the Rev. F. W. Hope in Griff. 'Anim. Kingdom,' Insects, i. p. 270. pl. 13. f. 1. (*Anthia Burchellii*): it is the *Anthia excæcans* of Burchell's MS.